

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 21, 26, 32 and 36 have been amended. Claims 1-36 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 11-13, 15-17 and 20-36 were rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Ikeda (US 6,607,260) (hereinafter "Ikeda").

Claims 5 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda.

Claims 1-8, 11-17 and 20-36

Independent claims 1, 21, 26, 32 and 36 have been amended to recite obtaining a straight line equation determined according to the first distance and the second distance and calculating a predetermined control value correcting the calculated image alignment errors by using the obtained straight line equation. Support for these amendments may be found in at least original claims 9, 10, 18 and 19. As claims 9, 10, 18 and 19 have been found to contain allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that adding the technical feature of obtaining a straight line equation determined according to the first distance and the second distance and calculating a predetermined control value correcting the calculated image alignment errors by using the obtained straight line equation places claims 1, 21, 26, 32 and 36 in a condition for allowance as this feature is not discussed in Ikeda.

Claims 3-8, 11-17, 20, 22-25, 27-31 and 33-35 depend on one of claims 1, 21, 26 and 32, respectively, and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that claims 9, 10, 18 and 19 have been found to contain allowable subject matter. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 9, 10, 18 and 19 are allowable in their present form.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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